

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

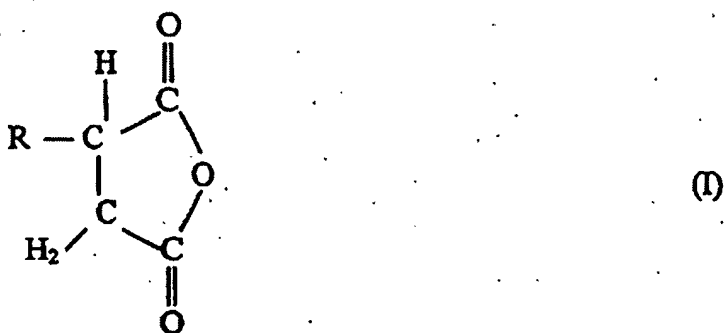
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A polymer dispersion or solution containing

- a hydrophobic polysaccharide, which is dispersed or dissolved in liquid phase, and
- a plasticizing composition of the polysaccharide,

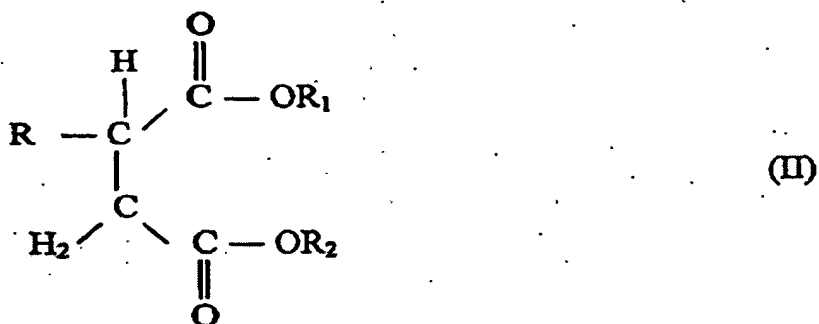
**characterized** in that at least 10 % by weight of the plasticizing composition consists of alkenyl succinic anhydride.

2. (Original) The polymer dispersion or solution according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the alkenyl succinic anhydride has the formula (I)



wherein R is a linear or branched alkenyl group having 3 – 24 carbons.

3. (Original) The polymer dispersion or solution according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the alkenyl succinate has the formula (II)



wherein R is a linear or branched alkenyl group having 3 – 24 carbons, and

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> can be, independent of each other, hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group, which has 1 – 10 carbons and which can have one or more functional groups.

4. (Original) The polymer dispersion or solution according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the plasticizing composition constitutes 10 – 70 % by weight of the dry content of the dispersion or the solution.

5. (Currently Amended) The polymer dispersion or solution according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the plasticizing composition contains a second plasticizing component, which is triacetin, diacetin, monoacetin, triethyl citrate, tributyl citrate, acethyl triethyl citrate, acetyl tributyl citrate, dimethyl succinate, diethyl succinate, oligo esters of

succinic acid and diols, ethyl lactate, methyl lactate, fatty acid esters of glycerol, castor oil, olive oil, rapeseed oil, tall oil, dibutyl phthalate, diethyl phthalate or a mixture thereof.

6. (Original) The polymer dispersion or solution according to Claim 5, **characterized** in that the plasticizing composition contains an oligomeric plasticizing agent.

7. (Currently Amended) The polymer dispersion or solution according to Claim 5~~–or–6~~, **characterized** in that the second plasticizing component constitutes, in the dispersion, 5 – 90 % and, in the solution, 0 – 90 % by weight of the plasticizing composition.

8. (Currently Amended) The polymer dispersion or solution according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the polysaccharide is cellulose or starch or derivatives thereof, such as cellulose ether, cellulose ether, starch ether or starch ester.

9. (Currently Amended) The polymer dispersion or solution according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the polysaccharide derivative is cellulose acetate or starch acetate.

10. (Currently Amended) The polymer dispersion or solution according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the starch acetate contains cationic groups.

11. (Currently Amended) The polymer dispersion or solution according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the polysaccharide derivative is ethyl cellulose.

12. (Currently Amended) The polymer dispersion or solution according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the anhydride of alkenyl succinate is an anhydride of n-octenyl alkenyl succinate.

13. (Original) A polymer coating/coating for pharmaceutical preparations containing polysaccharides and/or polysaccharide derivatives, **characterized** in that the plasticizer of the polymer contains an anhydride of alkenyl succinate.

14. (Original) The polymer coating according to Claim 13, **characterized** in that the water vapour transmission rate of the coating is less than  $300 \text{ g/m}^2$  in 24 h and Cobb60, the number describing the water absorption, is less than  $3 \text{ g/m}^2$ , while the amount of coating is at least  $30 \text{ g/m}^2$ .

15. (Original) A method for preparing hydrophobic polymer dispersion, according to which method

- a) a mixture consisting of a biopolymer, plasticizing agent, dispersion admixtures and water is formed,
- b) said mixture is heated to form a paste-like composition, and
- c) the paste-like composition is diluted in water,

**characterized** in that at least 10 % by weight of the plasticizing agent consists of an alkenyl succinic anhydride.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, **characterized** in that the a) and b) stages are conducted simultaneously, whereby the biopolymer, plasticizer, dispersion admixtures and water are mixed together at an elevated temperature to form a paste-like composition.